

National Medal of Arts

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



Created by Congress in 1984, the National Medal of Arts is conferred annually by the White House to honor persons and organizations who have made extraordinary contributions to the excellence, support, growth and availability of the arts in the United States.

The National Endowment for the Arts solicits nominations for the award that are vetted by the National Council on the Arts and then forwarded to the President for final selection. The awards, which are non-monetary, are presented each year at a special White House ceremony. This year's award recipients are:

Irene Diamond
New York, NY
Philanthropist

Odetta
New York, NY
Singer, Music Historian

Rosetta LeNoire
Bronx, NY
Actress, Producer

George Segal
North Brunswick, NJ
Sculptor

Aretha Franklin
Birmingham, MI
Singer

The Juilliard School
New York, NY
Performing Arts School

Harvey Lichtenstein
New York, NY
Arts Administrator

Maria Tallchief
Highland Park, IL
Ballerina

Michael Graves
Princeton, NJ
Architect, Designer

Norman Lear
Los Angeles, CA
Producer, Writer, Director,
Advocate

Lydia Mendoza
San Antonio, TX
Singer



The National Medal of Arts, designed by internationally renowned sculptor Robert Graham.
NEA file photo



President and Mrs. Clinton present the National Medal of Arts to Harvey Lichtenstein.
Photo by Neshan Naltchayan